



Department of Justice

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ST. PETERSBURG MAN ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

_____ TAMPA, FL - Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt announced today the guilty plea of Kenneth Fire, age 49, of St. Petersburg who pled guilty on August 24, 2007 to one count of distributing child pornography, one count of receiving child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography. According to court documents, Kenneth Fire told agents that he had been employed with the Pinellas County School District for 25 years, and that at the time of his arrest he was working at Maximo Elementary. Mr. Fire faces a minimum mandatory sentence of at five years' imprisonment up to a maximum of twenty years' imprisonment.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case is being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony Porcelli.